

Marshfield Conservation Commission

81st Meeting

1 May, 2013

Members Attending: Tony Mayhew, Allen Banbury, Brett Engstrom, Steve Fiske, Mike Zahner, Annie Reed, Ed Jalbert, and Bob Popp

Review of Minutes: Tabled - minutes were not available for review

Finances: Tony

- Conservation Fund Balance is \$5,430
- Approx. \$ 1,748 from the plant sale with half going to Plainfield so MCC will receive ca. \$874. Likely to be a bit less once pay final bills, so probably \$725 to each town.
- Have about \$252 in operating fund
- Ed requested tuition reimbursement for "Forestry for the Birds" Program.

Motion: to reimburse Ed for attending this workshop. Approved unanimously.

Stranahan Town Forest (STF):

- Ed, Bob, Allen, and Annie attended a meeting w/ the Stranahan Stewardship Com to discuss establishing a stewardship fund for the STF.
- After some discussion a consensus was reached to establish a stewardship fund which will be capped at \$5,000. In any year 50% of income will be put into the fund until it reaches the \$5,000 cap.
- **Bob** will draft a letter to the Selectbd, but will send a draft to the two committees.
- There was also some concern expressed at the joint meeting that the forestry plan was not adequately integrated with recreational uses.
- A meeting on site with Russ Barrett is tentatively set for Monday, the 6th around 3 or 4. **Bob** will send an email on Friday when Russ returns from vacation. Note: subsequently this meeting was postponed and has not been rescheduled at this time.

Martin Covered Bridge:

Riparian Plantings:

- Allen summarized the Friends of the Winooski's (FoW) proposed planting plan for the Martin Covered Bridge site which included box elder, a species not native to Vt. Some members were concerned about its use in a riparian planting on town property.
- Ann Smith (FoW) has reluctantly removed it from the species mix.

Motion: by Brett that future restoration plantings on town properties be restricted to species native to the Upper Winooski, and that MCC promotes native species in Marshfield, especially in the floodplain. Passed with six members in favor with two abstentions.

- There was an additional suggestion to thank FoW for all of their work to restore the Winooski floodplain thus far and in the future.

Mike will pass this recommendation along to FoW. Suggested that he also provide feedback to NRCS, USFWS, ANR, adjacent towns, etc.

- FoW is putting out trees on Friday at the MCB and will plant on Mon, the 6th.
- Proposal by VT River Conservancy to establish a canoe launch upstream of the bridge on Rte 2 side.
- River Conservancy will need a permit from the town and probably a conditional use permit from the DRB; possibly a T&E permit. **Bob** will check into the latter.
- Current proposal is to put the steps and launch on the rip rap above the bridge.

Green Up Day:

- Tony and Pat Mayhew will be at the town garage from 8AM to noon
- Members all thanked Pat and Tony for organizing the effort.

Other Business:

- Mini grants proposals are due 15 June.
- Plant swap is 8 to 12 on Sat, the 11th
- Annie went to Planning Commission public hearing; there will be additional opportunities to participate for those who were unable to attend this one.

Submitted by: Bob Popp

Submitted On: 6 May 2013

Approved: _____

Approved On: _____